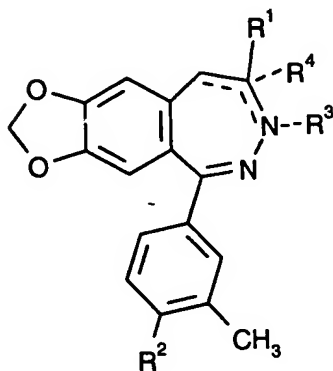


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 27 canceled.

1 Claim 28 (Previously presented) A compound of the
2 Formula (I)



I

4 wherein

5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂ or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

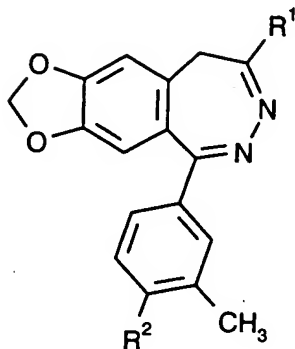
7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

12 R² is nitro or amino;

13 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally
18 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms;
20 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
21 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
22 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
23 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
24 bond;
25 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
26 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
27 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
28 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
29 single bond;
30 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 29 (Previously presented) A compound of the
2 Formula (IA)



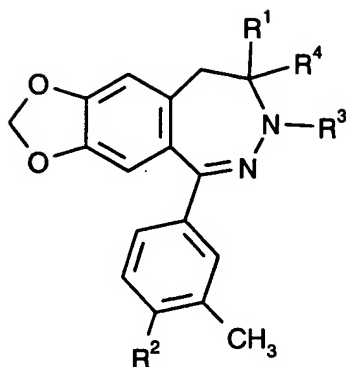
IA

4 wherein

5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms; and
12 R² is nitro or amino;
13 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 30 (Previously presented) A compound of the
2 Formula (IB)



IB

4 wherein

5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

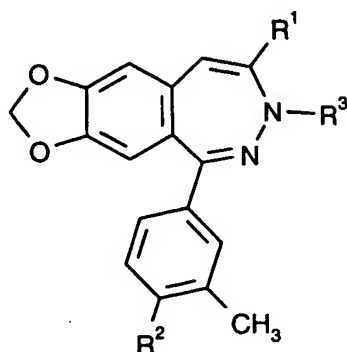
12 R² is nitro or amino;

13 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

18 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms; and
20 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable
21 salt thereof.

1 Claim 31 (Previously presented) A compound of the
2 Formula (IC)



IC

4 wherein
5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂ or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein
7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;
12 R² is nitro or amino; and
13 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally
18 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 32 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IA) defined in claim 29 wherein R² is amino; or a
3 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 33 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IB) defined in claim 30 wherein R² is amino; or a
3 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 34 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IC) defined in claim 31 wherein R² is amino; or a
3 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 35 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IB) defined in claim 30 wherein R¹ is methyl or cyano; R²
3 is amino; R³ is lower alkanoyl or -CONR⁷R⁸; R⁷ is hydrogen; R⁸ is
4 lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, or lower cycloalkyl; and R⁴ is hydrogen
5 or methyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 36 and 37 (Canceled)

1 Claim 38 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IC) defined in claim 31 wherein R¹ is methyl; R² is amino;
3 R³ is lower alkanoyl or -CONR⁷R⁸; R⁷ is hydrogen; and R⁸ is lower
4 alkyl, lower alkoxy, or lower cycloalkyl; or a pharmaceutically
5 acceptable salt thereof.

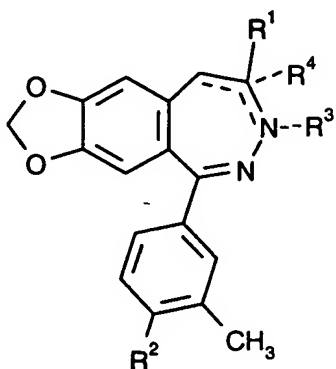
 Claim 39 (Canceled)

1 Claim 40 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IA) defined in claim 29 wherein R¹ is formyl, carboxy,
3 cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-NR⁵R⁶, or a pharmaceutically
4 acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 41 (Previously presented) The compound of the
2 Formula (IA) defined in claim 40 which is 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-
3 phenyl)-8-(semicarbazono-methyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-
4 H][2,3]benzodiazepine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
5 thereof.

Claims 42 through 48 (Canceled)

1 Claim 49 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical
2 composition for treating epilepsy which comprises a therapeutically
3 effective amount of a compound of the Formula (I)



5 wherein

6 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-
7 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

8 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
9 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
10 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
11 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
12 nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

13 R² is nitro or amino;

14 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

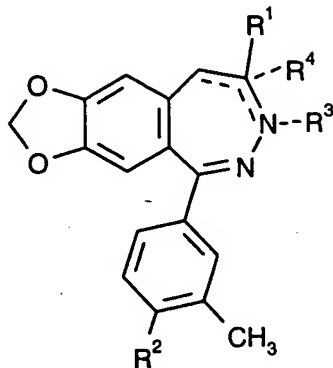
15 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
16 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
17 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-

18 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally
19 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
20 atoms;
21 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
22 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
23 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
24 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
25 bond;
26 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
27 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
28 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
29 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
30 single bond;
31 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a
32 pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier.

1 Claim 50 (Previously presented) A method of treating a
2 mammalian subject in need of treatment for epilepsy which comprises
3 the step of administering to said mammalian subject a
4 therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the Formula (I)
5 as defined in claim 28.

1 Claim 51 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical
2 composition for treating or preventing stroke, Parkinson's disease,
3 multiple sclerosis, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis which

comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the
Formula (I)



I

wherein

R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-NR⁵R⁶, wherein

R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R² is nitro or amino;

R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

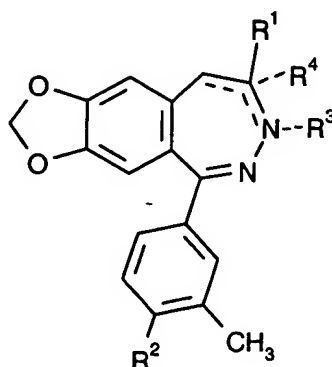
R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

21 containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen
22 atoms;
23 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
24 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
25 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
26 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
27 bond;
28 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
29 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
30 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
31 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
32 single bond;
33 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a
34 pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier.

1 Claim 52 (Previously presented) A method of treating a
2 mammalian subject in need of treatment for or prevention of stroke,
3 Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, or amyotropic lateral
4 sclerosis which comprises the step of administering to said
5 mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound
6 of the Formula (I) as defined in claim 28.

1 Claim 53 (currently amended) A pharmaceutical
2 composition for treating a neurodegenerative disease which responds
3 to non-competitive antagonism of an AMPA /cainate receptor which

comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the
Formula (I)



I

wherein

R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂, or -CO-NR⁵R⁶, wherein

R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R² is nitro or amino;

R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

21 containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen
22 atoms;
23 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
24 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
25 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
26 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
27 bond;
28 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
29 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
30 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
31 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
32 single bond;
33 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a
34 pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier.

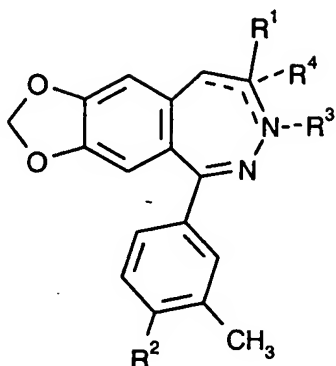
1 Claim 54 (currently amended) A method of treating a
2 mammalian subject in need of treatment for a neurodegenerative
3 disease which responds to non-competitive antagonism of an AMPA
4 /cainate receptor which comprises the step of administering to
5 said mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a
6 compound of the Formula (I) as defined in claim 28.

1 Claim 55 (new) The compound of the Formula (IB) defined
2 in claim 35 which is 7-acetyl-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7,
3 8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; or a
4 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 56 (new) The compound of the Formula (IB) defined
2 in claim 35 which is selected from the group consisting of:
3 5-(3-methyl-4-amino-phenyl)-7-propionyl-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-
4 1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
5 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-cyclopropyl-carbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro
6 -8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
7 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-methoxy-carbamoyl)-7,8-
8 dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
9 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-methyl-carbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-
10 methyl-9H-1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
11 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-acetyl-8-cyano-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9
12 H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; and
13 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-cyano-7-propionyl-7,8-dihydro-8-
14 methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 57 (new) The compound of the Formula (IC) defined
2 in claim 38 selected from the group consisting of:
3 7-acetyl-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-methyl-7H-
4 1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]-benzodiazepine;
5 7-(N-methyl-carbamoyl)-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-
6 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]-benzodiazepine; and
7 7-(N-cyclopropyl-carbamoyl)-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-
8 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; or a
9 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

1 Claim 58 (new) A process for the preparation of a
2 compound of the Formula (I)



I

4 wherein

5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH₂ or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

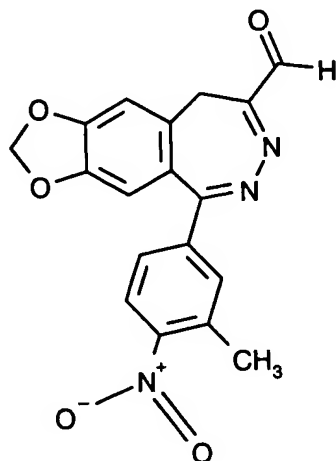
12 R² is nitro or amino;

13 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-

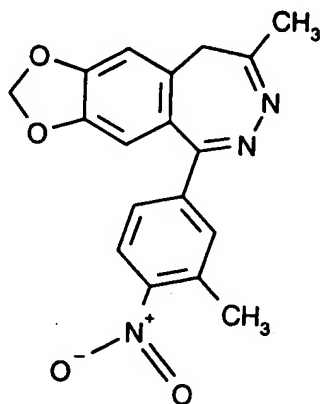
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally
18 containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms;
20 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
21 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
22 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
23 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
24 bond;
25 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
26 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
27 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
28 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
29 single bond;
30 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which comprises:

31 a) for the preparation of
32 8-formyl-5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h]-
33 [2,3]benzodiazepine of the Formula (III)



III

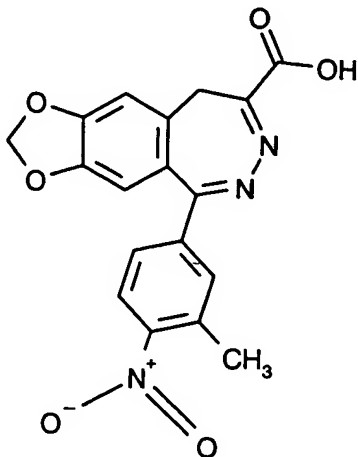
35 oxidizing
36 8-methyl-5-(4-nitro-3-methyl-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benz
37 odiazepine of the Formula (II)



II

39 or

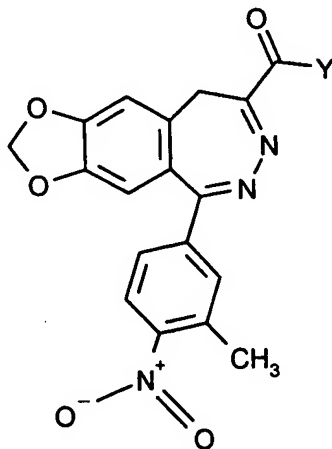
- 40 b) for the preparation of
41 5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-
42 [4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine-8-carboxylic acid of the Formula (IV)



IV

- 44 oxidizing the
45 8-formyl-5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]ben-
46 zodiazepine;
47 or

- 48 c) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (V)



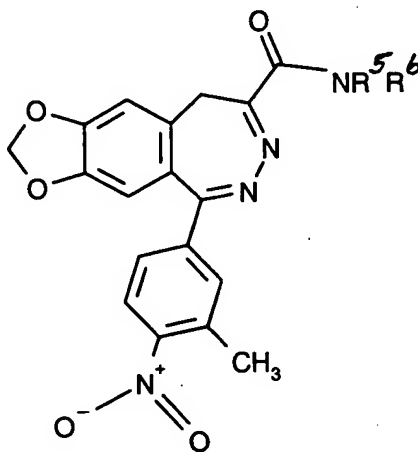
V

wherein Y is a leaving group, reacting the compound of the Formula IV with a compound capable of introducing group Y;

or

d) for the preparation of the compound of the Formula

(VI)

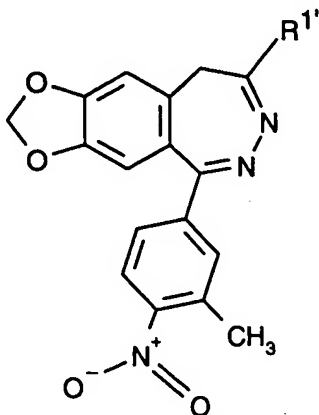


VI

wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are as defined above, reacting the carboxylic acid of the Formula (IV) or a reactive derivative thereof of the Formula (V) with an amine of the Formula HNR⁵R⁶;

or

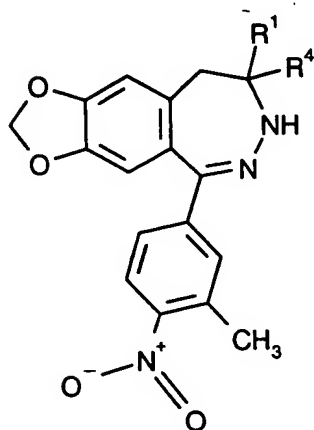
e) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (VII)



VII

wherein R^1 is cyano, $-\text{CH}=\text{NOH}$ or $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHCONH}_2$, converting in the compound of the Formula (III) the formyl group into an R^1 group; or

f) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (VIII)

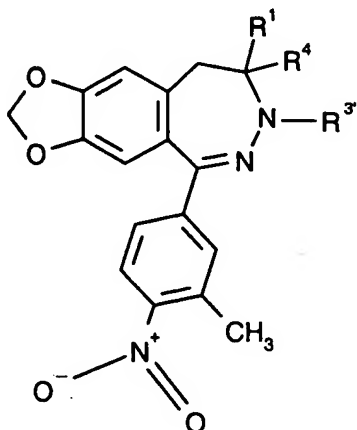


VIII

saturating the C^8-N^7 double bond of the compound of the Formula (VII) by addition or reduction;

or

g) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (IX)

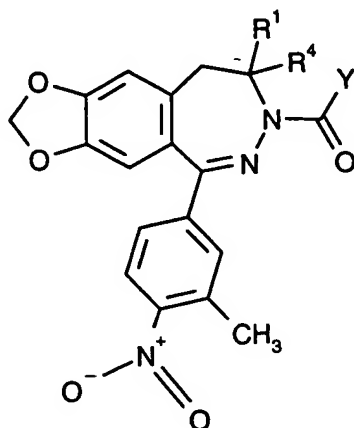


IX

wherein R^3 is lower alkanoyl), reacting a compound of the Formula (VIII) with a compound capable of introducing a lower alkanoyl group;

or

h) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (X)

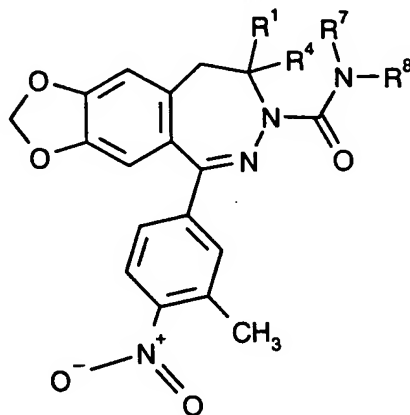


X

wherein Y is a leaving group and R^1 and R^4 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the Formula (VIII) with a compound capable of introducing the $-COY$ group;

or

I) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (XI)



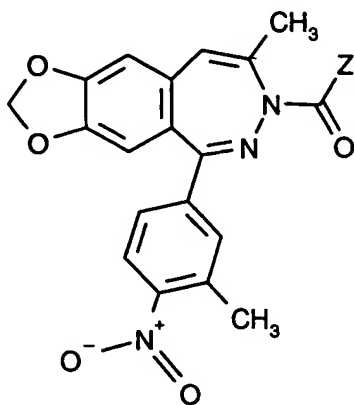
XI

wherein R^1 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the Formula (X) or the corresponding free carboxylic acid thereof with an amine of the Formula HNR^7R^8 ;

or

j) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula

(XII)



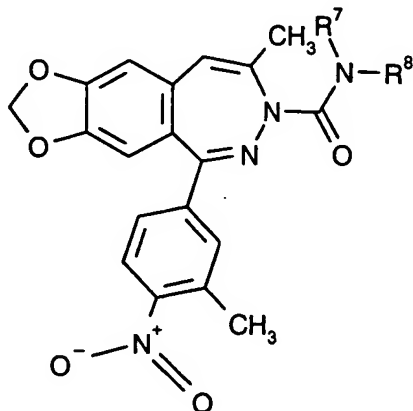
XII

wherein Z is a leaving group, reacting the compound of the Formula (II) with a compound capable of introducing the -COZ group;

or

k) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula

(XIII)



XIII

98 wherein R^7 and R^8 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the
99 Formula (XII) with an amine of the Formula HNR^7R^8 ;
100 or

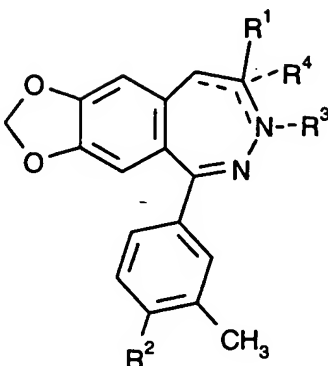
101 1) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (I),
102 wherein R^2 is amino, reducing the corresponding compound of the
103 Formula (I), wherein R^2 is nitro; and, if desired, converting a
104 compound of the Formula (I) into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid
105 addition salt thereof or setting free a compound of the Formula (I)
106 from a salt.

1 Claim 59 (new) Process according to process 1) defined
2 in Claim 58 which comprises reducing as the compound of the Formula
3 (I), a compound of the Formulae (II), (VII), (IX), (XI), (XII) or
4 (XIII).

1 Claim 60 (new) Process according to Claim 59 which
2 comprises carrying out the reduction by using stannous (II)
3 chloride, sodium dithionite or by means of catalytic hydrogenation.

1 Claim 61 (new) Process according to Claim 60 in which
2 the reduction is carried out by catalytic hydrogenation and which
3 comprises using a Raney-nickel, palladium or platinum catalyst, and
4 a hydrogen source selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,
5 hydrazine, hydrazine hydrate, formic acid, trialkyl ammonium
6 formate and an alkali formate.

1 Claim 62 (new) A process for preparing a compound of the
2 Formula (I)



I

4 wherein

5 R¹ is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, -CH=NNHCONH, or -CO-
6 NR⁵R⁶, wherein

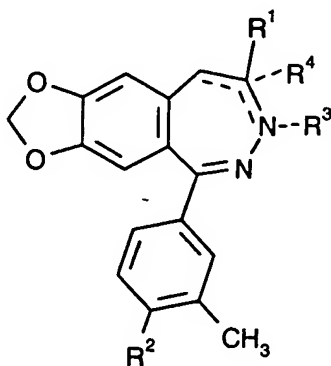
7 R⁵ and R⁶ independently from each other are hydrogen or
8 lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are
9 attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated
10 heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further
11 nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

12 R² is amino;

13 R³ is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or -CONR⁷R⁸ wherein

14 R⁷ and R⁸ independently from each other are hydrogen,
15 lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with
16 the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-
17 membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

18 containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen
19 atoms;
20 R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and
21 the dotted lines have the following meanings:
22 if R³ and R⁴ are not present, the bond between positions C⁸ and C⁹ is
23 a single bond, and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a double
24 bond;
25 if R³ and R⁴ are present, the bonds between positions C⁸ and C⁹ and
26 between positions C⁸ and N⁷ are single bonds; and
27 if R³ is present and R⁴ is missing, the bond between positions C⁸
28 and C⁹ is a double bond and the bond between positions C⁸ and N⁷ is a
29 single bond;
30 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which comprises the
31 step of reducing a compound of the Formula (I)



I

33 wherein
34 R² is nitro and R¹, R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and the dotted lines are as
35 defined above
36 with stannous (II) chloride, sodium dithionite or by catalytic
37 hydrogenation.